

Atlanta Ham

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, W4DOC

JULY 2009

The 2009 Atlanta Hamfest was a huge success!

If you missed it you missed a good one. I'll let our hardworking ARRL GA Section Manager Susan AF4FO take it!

"Bucking the rather discouraging downward spiral that most Hamfest seem to be falling into in recent years, this fest actually took a big leap upward. The attendance was UP, the number of vendors was UP, and the size of the boneyard was UP. Think it was just a matter of "good luck"? Oh, I think not! Hamfest chairman John Talipsky, N3ACK, and all of the Atlanta ARC members did an outstanding job promoting the fest this year, proving that promotion really does make a difference. Other clubs in the area also took advantage of the free club tables that were made available to them, and were able to promote their own clubs and interests, as well. For the first time, the Gwinnett ARS hosted an antenna launching competition at the hamfest, and the success of this inaugural event bodes well for its continued inclusion at future fests. Most of the forums were very well attended, and the VE testing attracted a large crowd, as well. The remembrance service that was held for **Sandy Donahue, W4RU**, was filled beyond capacity, and was much appre-



KONWT Newt (left) working contacts at the Margarita & Martini 10-10 Chapter booth at The Atlanta Hamfest

ciated by all. Special thanks go to **Mikie Boatwright, KO4WX**, for putting together such an extraordinary slide show for the service, and to the ARRL for graciously allowing us to use some of their archived photos.

Bottom line, this was a great fest. Congratulations to the Atlanta ARC, who worked so hard to put it together for our

enjoyment, and as always, thanks to each of you were able to attend. Miss it this year? Too bad, because you missed a good one. But you'll have another chance next year. It promises to be even bigger and better, because once a Hamfest gets this kind of momentum going, there's no stopping it!"



Gene Clark W4AYK announced as new ARRL GA Section Manager
Page...2

Call for volunteers...Peachtree Road Race July 4th

It's hard to believe that the AJC Peachtree Road Race is just days away! July 4, 2009 - and we're back at Piedmont Park!

Can you help out this year? Please sign up online at this link—click on "Volunteer for this job".
http://www.doitsports.com/volunteer2/info.tcl?job_id=17368613

I hope to see you out there! 73, David Ziskind KE4QLH

Don't forget the monthly meeting Thursday July 2nd!

THE ATLANTA HAM

The Atlanta HAM is the official bulletin of The Atlanta Radio Club serving its members and the Atlanta community. Original articles, art, and photos are welcome. Copyrighted material cannot be printed without permission from the appropriate legal authority. Please include such disclaimers in all materials submitted.

Submit articles:

John Talipsky N3ACK
385 Madison Chase Dr
Lawrenceville, GA 30045

Contact the editor for available formats to transfer material.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS THE 21ST OF EACH MONTH!

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Come join us June 2nd!

The next meeting of the Atlanta Radio Club will be held July 2 at 7:30 P.M.
Agenda

Business Portion

- o Regular business (intro of members, repeater report, committee reports, financial report, etc.)
- o Review and recap of the ARC Hamfest, which took place in early June.
- o Review and recap of the ARC field day at Georgia Tech, which took place in late June.
- o Report by the election committee on nominations for the upcoming ARC election.

Program Portion

o Dr. Don Nesbitt, N4HH, will talk about Merry Go Round Radio. Don was first licensed on May 23, 1955 as WN9VZY. Armed with the 1950 edition of the ARRL's "How to Become a Radio Amateur" Don said, "I built and tested a single 6V6 crystal controlled oscillator complete with a transformer operated power supply wherein we were admonished that: '... it does use about 350 volts. That can easily be lethal, so use the greatest care and respect when working with it.' This is scary stuff!"

Don currently has worked 351 confirmed countries. He will discuss his experiences with various HF rigs while focusing on specifications, measurements and operating impressions of HF radios in the market today. Don will also provide an analysis of radios currently in use by local amateurs.

When: July 2nd

Time: 730PM

Talk-in: 146.820(-) PL 146.2

Red Cross HQ Atlanta
1955 Monroe Drive NE
Atlanta GA 30324

From the North: Take I-85 South. Get off at Exit 86 (Peachtree St.- Buford Hwy.), then take first exit (Armour Dr. - Monroe Dr.). Turn left at the light and go under the bridge, then right on Monroe Dr. Go a little over a tenth of a mile. Turn left in the driveway with the American Red Cross Chapter sign. The building is on the top of the hill.

From the South: Take I-85 North. Get off at Exit 86 (Buford Hwy.), then get off at Exit 27 (Monroe Dr.). Turn right at the light. Go a little over a tenth of a mile. Turn left in the driveway with the American Red Cross Chapter sign. The building is on the top of the hill.

Cyclist Gene Clark W4AYK to ride 100 miles for birthday at age 80

For his 80th birthday on Saturday, retired Nephrologist Eugene Clark plans to ride his bike on a 100-mile trip from Quincy, Fla. to Albany, GA with family and friends.

On Sunday, he plans to bike back to Quincy. "This is my birthday party," laughed Clark. "I'm just hoping I will be able to complete it."

According to fellow cyclist and friend Ritaann Becker from Havana, Fla., Clark should have no trouble with this course. "He has done it before and he is in great shape," she said. "He goes to the gym and he did a bike ride across Georgia to prepare for this." Becker said that she met Clark on the same trip that they will be taking Saturday for his birthday. "I met Gene in April 2005 across the lunch table in Whigham, Georgia," she said. "It was on an organized ride from Quincy to Albany." Becker said that she was impressed by Clark, describing his determination to complete the ride as inspirational. "On the way into Quincy there was a big hill that we had to climb," she recalled. "He was one of the last ones to finish, but he made it. His toe strap had broken on one of his shoes, but he made it." Becker, who works as a massage therapist

(Continued on page 7)

METRO TESTING SESSIONS

Athens, GA

1st Monday of each EVEN-numbered month at 7:00 pm
2095 W. Broad Street.

Contact: EDWIN FUQUA, N4VA
(706) 354-1727 E: edwin.fuqua@charter.net

Cartersville, GA

1st Tuesday of each month at the Cartersville Kroger. Contact: JODI POWELL, AG4BK
(770) 387-1591

Braselton, GA

1st Sunday 2:00 p.m. Odd-numbered months
Braselton Public Utility Building 4986 Highway 53
Contact: Mike Gee W9QO – 706-824-0043 or
w9qo@arrl.net Fee \$10

Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society/VEC

Gainesville, GA

1st Sunday of EVEN-numbered months
Johnson High School, 3305 Poplar Springs Rd
Contact: ALFRED WESTBROOK, KT4VP
(770) 965-4901 Email: kt4vp@arrl.net

Milledgeville, GA ARRL / VEC

2nd Saturday of each month at 10:00 am
at the Mary Vinson Memorial Library, 151 S. Jefferson
Stacross from the Georgia Military Academy. Contact: OTIS
MURPHY W4OY
(478) 452-6394 Email: W4OY@arrl.net

Peachtree City, GA

1st Thursday of EVEN-numbered months at 7:00 pm, and
the 2nd Saturday of ODD-numbered months at 10:00 am at
the Peachtree City Library, downstairs meeting room. Contact:
JAN DUBROCA, KN4JD (770) 502-0760

Snellville, GA

2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm
at Walton EMC, 3645 Lenora Church Road.
Contact: WAYNE TAYLOR, WD3CCA
(770) 498-7759

Stone Mountain, GA ARRL / VEC

Alford Memorial Radio Club
2nd Saturday of ODD-months at 8:30 am
Stone Mountain United Methodist Church,
5312 W. Mountain St.
Contact: BOB VARONE, W4ETN
(770) 978 3179 Email: bvarone@juno.com

Marietta, GA CAVEC

Central America VEC
3rd Saturday of month at 9:00AM
Marietta First United Methodist Church
56 Whitlock Avenue
Contact: David Still WB4RRD
wb4rrd@gmail.com

Lawrenceville, GA

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
3rd Sunday of each month, 3-5PM
Lawrenceville Masonic Lodge #131
465 South Perry Street, Lawrenceville, GA
Contact: Frank Sauciunas KF4TQV
kf4tqv@charter.net

Atlanta, GA

Georgia Tech ARC & The Atlanta Radio Club
4th Sunday of each month, 2:30pm GATECH
cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/w4aql/test.html

UPCOMING HAMFEST CALENDAR

Sunday Night Net: All amateurs are invited to check into the Sunday Night Net at 8:00 PM on the 146.82 repeater. This net features comments from all check-ins, club news from club officers and committee chairpersons, a swap shop, and a discussion topic, if requested. 224.34 and 444.825 are normally linked in as well for the Sunday Night Net.

8 Aug 2009

Elli Jay Amateur Radio Society (EARS)
<http://www.ngamtn.com/w4hhh/> **Talk-In:** 145.170 -600 kHz (PL 100)

15-16 Aug 2009

Alabama Section Convention (Huntsville Hamfest)
Huntsville Hamfest Association & Huntsville Amateur Radio Club
<http://www.hamfest.org> **Talk-In:** 146.940 (no tone)

3 Oct 2009

LaGrange Amateur Radio Club
http://www.lagrangeradioclub.org/LaGrange_Hamfest_Flyer_2009.pdf
Talk-In: 146.70(-) (PL 141.3)

1 November 2009

Alford Memorial Hamfest
Lawrenceville, GA

14 November 2009

Alabama State Convention - Montgomery Amateur Radio Club
<http://www.w4ap.org> **Talk-In:** 146.84 (no tone required)

LxPedition scheduled for Saturday July 4th

Source: Andy KD4UKW

Well, Field Day has ended, and most of us are exhausted and sunburned. It must be time for... another LxPedition!

I plan to operate from the summit of Mt. Mitchell, NC, on July 4th. I don't have an all-mode rig, so FM phone is the mode for this event.

I will operate on both the 2m and 70cm bands. My plan is NOT to use the national calling frequencies for the scheduled LxPedition. Too many random people will join in if we do that. Not that I dislike random peo-

ple -- in fact you might hear me on 146.52 and 446.0 outside of the scheduled LxPedition times.

The most ambitious part of the event is that I want to get my home-brewed 15-element quagi working on 70cm. During my initial field trial a few months ago, I experienced (what were JL's words?) non-optimal results due to poorly constructed reflector/driven loops and an unwieldy mast/support system. I wonder whether any antenna parts are still lying on the ground at FDR State Park? I hope to

remedy the situation this time.

For 2 meters I will probably use my 3-element tape-measure beam. However, if I can find enough time between now and the weekend, I will add 2m capability to my big quagi.

With any luck, some of you will get into the hilltopping spirit and we can make a bunch of contacts. I will operate with vertical polarization. I chose frequencies that are designated as simplex "channels" on the SERA.org website.

Tentative schedule, if weather on the mountain cooperates:

Saturday, July 4th

14:00 EDT (18:00Z): 446.1 simplex, or 446.05 if the first frequency is in use.

14:30 EDT: 146.58 simplex, or 146.55 if the first frequency is in use.

A report on a recent LxPedition ... KI4SDO

Well, I was late getting started, and by 2:30 PM I was still in the Columbia, SC area, 40 miles from my destination, so I started looking for a place to stop and set up the radio. I ended up pulling into the parking lot of Southeast Park, a tennis park just off Hwy 76/378 (N33.96117 W080.93253).

I set up the FT-897 on the dashboard and hooked up Bill's 10M antenna. Right at 3:00 PM I started calling on 28.350. I called for about 10 minutes without hearing anyone, at gradually increasing power levels. I even tried calling on the same frequency in CW for a little while, just in case SSB signal wasn't making it to Atlanta. Nothing heard. I then decided try checking the 10 meter propagation beacons. Tuning down to around 28.290, I found one beacon, ND4Z, that was coming in pretty strong, but it turned out to be very close (the same grid square as me).

As I tuned back to 28.350 I heard a brief phone signal that was pretty strong, and I could have sworn he was calling "KB4KFT." Thinking it might be a nearby station who had heard Bill calling for me, I tried answering him, but never heard him again. Around 3:25 PM I gave up, packed up the radio, and continued my journey.

Sorry it didn't work out, but it was a good exercise in portable operation

for me, and I hope to try some more of these in the future.

W4DOC REPEATER NEWS & NOTES

All three repeaters require a CTCSS tone of 146.2 Hz.

146.820 (-) (IRLP Node 4550) 224.340 (-) 444.825 (+) (IRLP Node 5070)

The current schedule for net operations include the Sunday Night Net on 146.820 at 8PM EST and the Southeastern VHF Net on Wednesday evenings at 9PM. The 146.820 machine can also be dialed into IRLP and SKYWARN/Peachtree City during inclement weather.

D-Star Repeaters (Bank of America Tower)

145.350 (-0.6 MHz) W4DOC C 444.600 (+5.0 MHz) W4DOC B

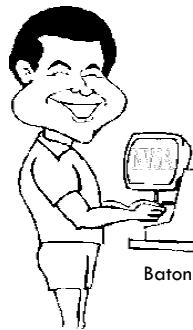
1282.60 (-12 MHz) W4DOC A 1297.625 (Data) W4DOC D

D-Star on Stone Mountain (Joint ARC/GA ARES)

145.960 (+2.5 MHz) WX4GPB C 444.700 (+5.0 MHz) WX4GPB B

1282.700 (-12 MHz) WX4GPB A 1297.125 (Data) WX4GPB D

The Signman of Baton Rouge



The Atlanta Amateur Radio Club badge has a Silver background with blue letters and the Club Logo in gold. The distinctive Atlanta skyline; designed by Roy Epps, K4UWO, makes this name tag unique.

Go online to order...Ask for the Atlanta ARC badge!

PO Box 84107
Baton Rouge, LA 70808-4107 USA
(225) 757-1545 Phone
225-208-1545 Fax
Toll-Free 877-SIGNMAN
[Http://thesignman.com](http://thesignman.com)



What's the big Deal about D-Star Anyway?

So what is the big deal about D-Star? Why is everybody so excited? What am I missing if I don't get involved?

The short answer is that D-Star has just about anything you want from Amateur Radio:



Bert Bruner
KE4FOV

- Local conversation
- World-wide conversation
- Emergency communication
- Portable battery operation
- Mobile and base operation
- Text messaging
- True static-free digital transmission
- Internet connectivity
- Geographically dispersed nets
- Easily find people by callsign regardless of location
- DPRS (digital version of APRS)
- Easily make new friends in other places
- Connect over the Internet (without a radio)
- Convergence of radio, computers and networks
- Callsign Squelch (opens audio only when transmission is directed to your callsign)
- Opportunity to participate in the evolution of a new system
- Repeater Linking
- Opportunities to learn and teach
- Repeater Building
- Experimentation

... All this and much more.

Whatever it is about amateur radio that makes your heart flutter, D-Star probably has it!

What does it take to get started with D-Star?

The obvious answer is a radio. But, wait; you don't actually have to have a radio for D-Star! The "starter kit" for a lot of people is a DV-Dongle. The Dongle is a small blue box that plugs into the USB port on your PC. That together with a headset and some software allows you to connect to a D-Star repeater via the Internet. As the lowest cost way to get on the air, many hams have used the Dongle to see for themselves what all the excitement is about.

While the Dongle is clearly not as portable as a radio, it really shines in some areas. Since it's right there with your computer, it's a dandy way to connect to that QSO you just discovered on the dstarusers.org website.

Speaking of websites, you'll definitely want to check these out:

www.dstarusers.org – who's on what repeater right now; what repeaters are available

www.dstarinfo.com – information on D-Star, reflectors, nets, D-Star Calculator, D-Star Info newsletter

w4doc.dstargateway.org – D-Star Registration (To communicate with linked repeaters and reflectors, you must register your callsign.)

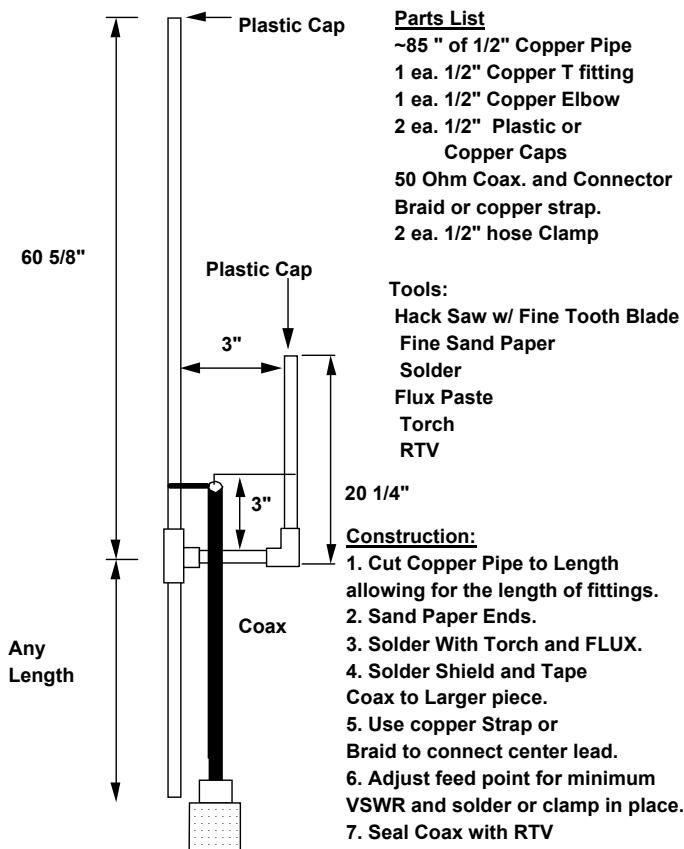
dvdongle.com – Information and software downloads for the DV-Dongle

www.icomamerica.com – Information on D-Star radios

ke4fov.com – D-Star First Steps handout and other articles

atlantaradioclub.com – repeater frequencies and other club information

2 Meter Copper J-Pole Antenna



Drawing Not to Scale

KC6JOV
Carl N6VNG

Dear Elmer:

I am going to use a J-pole antenna for my setup, I need to know if it makes any difference how its mounted?? Fixed vertical, horizontal, thrown into a tree?? Is there a certain direction it must pointed or aimed to receive better?? I just cant hide a Discone antenna at my apartment... Any tips?

Signed: Newbie

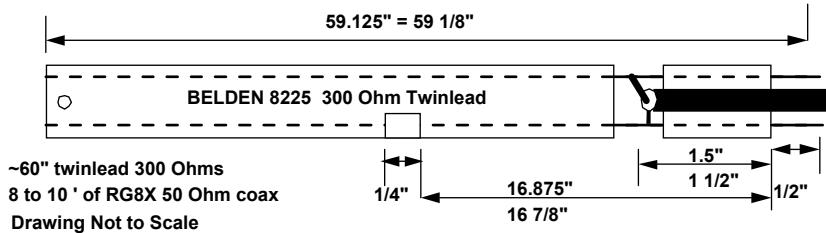
Elmer: Vertical (straight up) and fixed to a mast or other stable mount, as high and as far away from computers or fluorescent lighting as possible. Why? Because the people who build these things and know more about radio waves than I do all mount them this way. When you think of it, though, radio waves peak and trough more or less perpendicular to a level plane so you would want the maximum surface area of the antenna meeting the wave.

As far as in what direction, it's best to aim your j-pole antenna so that the lower arm is closest to the transmission towers of the frequency you want to receive.

Roll-Up J-Pole Antenna for 2 Meters

KC7NS
WB6ADC
N6VNG

- Cut a piece of standard 300 Ohm Twin Lead to about 60" long.
- At one end strip off 1/2" of insulation from both conductors.
- Twist the ends together and solder them. Insulate with tape.
- The following measurements are from the soldered end
- Cut a 1/4" notch in one conductor $16.875" = 16 \frac{7}{8}"$.
- Do Not remove the rest of the conductor.
- At 1.5" from the shorted end, remove enough insulation from both conductors to connect the coaxial feed line.
- Connect the coaxial line shield to the $16 \frac{7}{8}"$ side.
- Connect the coaxial center conductor to the long side.
- For support and protection, put a piece of heat shrink or plastic tape over each of the solder connections.
- Punch a small 1/8" hole in the insulation at the open end to hang the J-Pole. A small string or Tie-wrap works well to pin the J-Pole to a curtain.
- Tuning: If you use the exact dimensions shown below the antenna will be resonant in the two meter band. Prune the open end a little if not exact with an SWR meter to determine minimum reflected power.



J-Pole Scaling JPOLESCL.xls

Dr. Carl O. Jelinek

2/28/96 20:26

Roll-up J-Pole

Frequency (MHz)	147	223	440	28.4
Total Length (in.)	59.125	38.975	19.753	306.034
To Notch (in.)	16.875	11.124	5.638	87.346
Stub {in.}	1.5	0.989	0.501	7.764

Copper J-Pole

Frequency (MHz)	146	223	440	28.2
Total Length (in.)	60.625	39.692	20.116	313.874
To Notch (in.)	20.25	13.258	6.719	104.84
Stub {in.}	3	1.964	0.995	15.532
Spacing {in.}	3	1.964	0.995	15.532

2009 ARC/GTARC Field Day Report

Thanks everyone for helping the ARC reestablish our tradition of participating in Field Day.

Everyone appeared to have a lot of fun despite the heat, rain and less than ideal band conditions. Great food and camaraderie makes up for a lot of things.

Special thanks go to: Georgia Tech Amateur Radio Club (Christian Michelson, AI4XY, President; Andrew Carter, KI4SSU, VP) for hosting the event, Ryan Ingoglia, K5NRP, for serving as band captain and coordinator

Ryan's lovely XYL for cooking a great dinner, Jim Reed,, N4BFR, for publicizing the event and arranging for the proclamation, Bill Perkins, KB4KFT, for his inspiring leadership and his endless supply of cables, tools, connectors and gadgets

I invite all participants to reply here and share your experiences with the rest of the club. If you'd rather talk than write, you'll have an opportunity to talk about Field Day at the next ARC meeting, coming up this Thursday.

Let me be the first to invite you to Field Day 2010 on June 27-28, 2010.

73 and thanks,
Rob, KI4UTY

P.S. The GTARC and ARC clubs - or is it ARC and GTARC clubs - are considering holding a field day type event sometime in the fall, when it's cooler. Stay tuned for more details.

Gene Clark...

(Continued from page 2)

and part-time in a bike shop in Tallahassee, said that after Clark's first ride from Quincy to Albany he came in and bought a bike from the shop where she worked. She said that throughout the years she and Clark have developed a genuine friendship and have remained in contact via e-mail and telephone calls. She said that she was excited about the trip, which she will be making with Clark Saturday, because she hadn't seen the retired physician in over two years. "He is so inspirational and I am so honored to do this," said Becker. "I get to finally meet his wife, Catherine, and his family in person who will be riding sag with us throughout the trip." Clark said that "sag" means that his wife, along with his daughter, Sally, will be riding in a car from point to point, providing refreshments to the riders. "It comes from 'sagging,'" explained Clark. "If somebody sags, you can pick them up." Becker said that the 10-hour ride will certainly be interesting and fun. "It's at Gene's pace," she said. "Sunday is going to be tough because of the heat and the hills, but the key is to keep going."

Clark said that he got the idea for his birthday ride a few years back. "It's going to be fun," he said. According to Clark, his son Bob will be joining

him on the road on Clark's old bike. "I bought me a new one so he will be riding the one I got in Tallahassee," he said. Clark's partner and fellow nephrologist Dr. Hasan Rizvi will also be riding with him. Clark said that he is looking forward to his birthday ride and says that he feels he is in better shape at 80 than he was when he was practicing medicine. "I am way stronger than I was when I quit my practice," said Clark. "I realized that between 70 and 80 you can gain muscle mass and strength." He said that although he rides regularly and feels he can successfully complete the ride, the heat and the hills might pose a problem. "That one in Quincy is a pretty good hill," said Clark. "I'll do what I can. We (cyclists) don't call it quitting, we call it cross-training when we have to get down and walk. I will finish it though."

The retired nephrologist said that he is also excited about the birthday cake his daughter made for him. "Caramel cake, it is my favorite," said Clark. "I feel kind of guilty that I have been the center of attention this week and I am so grateful that I have such great friends and family." He said that the key to growing old gracefully is to exercise and to try and be happy. "I am a happy person," Clark said. "I have my problems but I still try to be

happy."

The cyclist said that he will continue riding bikes as long as he is able, but has no wheeling plans yet for future birthdays. "I hope I can still ride," he said.

Becker said that Clark remains an inspiration to her and that he has touched many lives. "Gene's the man," she said. "He shows me what you can do at that age."

Clark said that he is grateful for his friends and his family and the ability to spend his birthday with them. "I'm grateful and God has blessed me in so many ways," he said. "I'm in this stage right now and I can't wait for what is in the future."

In addition to riding with the Pecan City Pedalers, Clark also serves as the section manager for Georgia Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARRS), which he says is his "real passion."

He is credited with opening the first dialysis center in Southwest Georgia in 1976 and in February the Clark Home Training Center on the 1200 block of North Jefferson Street was dedicated and named in his honor.

It was recently announced that Gene has agreed to become the ARRL Ga Section Manager as of October 1. Congratulations Gene!

John Talipsky N3ACK
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MEETING NOTICE - THURS JULY 2, 2009



The image features a Kenwood TH-F6A handheld transceiver on the left, oriented vertically. The model name "TH F6A" is printed in large letters on its front face. To the right of the radio is the "HAM RADIO OUTLET" logo, which includes a stylized globe graphic and the text "WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION". Below the logo is a descriptive paragraph about the TH-F6A.

Finally, the Amateur Handheld that everyone has been waiting for, the New Kenwood TH-F6A. The TH-F6A is a 144/220/440 MHz transceiver/receiver with dual-channel RX capability in a compact and powerful design. The first Tri-Band HT with 3 bands you can operate **EVERY DAY!** The TH-F6A boasts a list of unique features the competition is still scratching their heads over.

KENWOOD
Listen to the Future